



Contact:

Susan Martensen, 360.753.7828

[susanm@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:susanm@hecb.wa.gov)

Betty Lochner, 360.753.7871

[bettyl@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:bettyl@hecb.wa.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 9, 2011**

**GET Program responds to customer concerns**

*Current GET units not affected by proposed legislation*

**OLYMPIA** – Proposed changes to Washington’s Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program are prompting current GET account holders to inquire about the status of their accounts. Recent media coverage surrounding HB 1795 and SB 5749 has addressed a possible reduction of future tuition benefits for future GET participants. The change is proposed as a way to limit future state liability in light of escalating college tuition.

GET Director Betty Lochner said, “We would like to clarify the fact that no proposed program changes would affect GET units that are currently held or those that are purchased during this enrollment year.”

Customers may find bill information on both HB 1795 and SB 5749 as well as contact information for their state legislators on the [Washington State Legislature](http://www.wa.gov) site. Lochner notes that it is still early in the legislative process, so further discussion is expected.

GET is a self-supported state program that serves Washington families by offering a guaranteed way to save for college tuition. GET is a 529 prepaid tuition plan, where college savings are guaranteed by state law (see [RCW 28B.95.050](http://leg.wa.gov/RCW/28B/28B.95.050)) to keep pace with rising tuition no matter how much it increases in the future.

GET works on a unit system, with 100 GET units guaranteed to equal one year of resident undergraduate tuition and required state fees at the most expensive Washington public university. Families can use the monetary value of these units at nearly any public or private college in the country. GET offers flexible savings options, as well as tax-free growth and withdrawals. With over 124,000 accounts, the GET Program has already helped over 20,000 students attend college.

###